

REMARKS

This application contains only a single detailed claim, which has been amended herein, and is to a wire harness that has a first electric wire connected to a connector at its end, and a second electric wire connected to another connector at its end and accommodated in an exterior component in the middle in the longitudinal direction thereof. The first electric wire and the second electric wire each include a conductive core, a coating which is made of synthetic resin and coats the core, a first marking formed by coloring a portion of an outer surface of the coating with a first color which is different from that of the outer surface, and a second marking formed by coloring another portion of the outer surface of the coating with a second color which is different from both of the outer surface and the first color. The first marking and the second marking are spaced from each other and arranged in a longitudinal direction of said coating, and the length of each of the first marking and the second marking of the second electric wire in the longitudinal direction is shorter than that of each of those of the first electric wire in the longitudinal direction. The interval between the first marking and the second marking of the second electric wire is shorter than that of the first electric wire, and the first marking and second marking of the second electric wire are exposed from the exterior component at the end of the second electric wire with a plurality of first and second markings circumferentially arranged on the outer surface of said coating, such that the second wire is readily distinguished from the first wire. Such a wire harness is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the Office Action, claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of a combination of Baker (U.S. 3,179,554) and Weston (U.S. 1,856,676). Reconsideration and removal of that rejection is respectfully requested in view of the present amendment to claim 4 and the following remarks.

The Office Action alleges that Baker shows the present claimed wire harness except that Baker does not disclose the length of each of the first marking and the second marking of a second wire in the longitudinal direction being shorter than that of each of those of a first wire in the longitudinal direction, and the interval between the first marking and the second marking of the second wire being shorter than that of the first wire. Weston is then cited to show a wire harness comprising a first wire (A) and a second wire (C) each having markings thereon, with the length of the marking of the second wire (C) in the longitudinal direction being shorter than that of the first wire (A) and the interval between the marking of the second wire (C) being shorter than that of the first wire (A).

It is then alleged that it would be obvious to modify the Baker harness to provide the length of the first and second markings (12A and 12B) and the interval between the first and second markings on the second wire to be shorter than those of the first wire to further distinguish the second wire from the first wire, as taught by Weston.

The newly cited Weston patent shows a telephone cable with insulated conductors of one group or in any individual group marked or identified by the same color. The cable uses paper insulation. The wires are marked by adding continuous stripes of color which encircle the wire.

Different widths of stripes may be used but the stripes on each wire have the same width and spacing between stripes.

Applicants have amended claim 4 to provide that, in the present claimed harness, a plurality of first and second markings are circumferentially arranged on the outer surface of the coating, as illustrated in FIGS. 7A and 7B and specified at lines 6-9 on page 28 of the present application. None of the references or this combination teach or suggest such an arrangement.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claim 4, as amended, is believed to be patentable and early action towards allowance is respectfully requested.

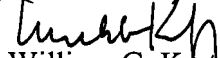
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/523,979
Response to OA dated July 27, 2007

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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